

## Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION SS-25

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R 140934Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2694

S E C R E T BANGKOK 6332

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MARR, TH

SUBJ: PROSPECTS FOR KHMER REPUBLIC

REF: A. BANGKOK 5225

B. BANGKOK 7551

SUMMARY: IN CHARGE'S MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER  
CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN AND SUPREME COMMAND CHIEF OF STAFF  
GENERAL KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN APRIL 13, THAI DISCUSSED  
THEIR EXPECTATIONS FOR KHMER REPUBLIC AT THIS JUNCTURE.  
WHILE MFA AND SUPREME COMMAND VIEWS REMAIN DIVERGENT,  
WE GOT IMPRESSION SUPREME COMMAND WMAY HAVE MADE SOME HEAD-  
WAY IN MOVING THE MFA TOWARD ITS VIEW THAT SIHANOUK  
CANNOT SAVE THE SITUATION. OTHER MATTERS DISCUSSED AT  
MEETING ARE COVERED IN SEPTELS. END SUMMARY

1. CHATCHAI OPENED THIS PART OF THE DISCUSSION BY  
DESCRIBING LONG BORET'S RECENT PASSAGE THROUGH BANGKOK.  
HE CONFIRMED THAT LONG BORET HAD TALKED TO BOTH  
SIHANOUK'S SON, YUVANEATH, (WHO, ACCORDING TO  
CHATCHAI, LEFT BANGKOK APRIL 12), AND TO "A REPRESENTATIVE OF A CAMBODIAN FACTION THT IS NOT THE  
KHMER ROUGE". CHATCHAI STRESSED THAT RTG HAD NOT  
PARTICIPATED IN LONG BORET TALKS HERE BUT HAD  
MERELY MADE FACILITIES AVAILABLE.

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2. ASKED HOW HE SAW THE SITUATION EVOLVING, CHATCHAI SAID HE EXPECTED A CEASE-FIRE FOLLOWED BY NEGOTIATIONS. KRIANGSAK INTERJECTED THAT THESE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD REACH A USEFUL RESULT ONLY IF LONG BORET AND HIS SIDE WERE MILITARILY STRONG. HE STRESSED THE NEED FOR CONTINUED ASSISTANCE TO THE GKR. AT THIS POINT, THE CHARGE MENTIONED US DECISION TO CONTINUE AIR-DROP SUPPORT. CHATCHAI DID NOT OBJECT TO THIS DECISION AND KRIANGSAK WAS PLEASED BY IT. CHARGE POINTED OUT THAT SOME SUPPLIES REMAINED IN PIPELINE, AND THAT PRESIDENTIAL REQUEST TO CONGRESS FOR CAMBODIAN MAP SUPPLEMENTAL WAS STILL PENDING. KRIANGSAK REPEATED THAT POSITION OF LONG BORET HAD TO BE STRENGTHENED TO ENABLE HIM TO NEGOTIATE.

3. MFA PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY PHAEN DISSENTED FROM BOTH CHATCHAI AND KRIANGSAK VIEWS, STATING THAT UNDER CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES IN CAMBODIA, NOTHING REMAINED TO NEGOTIATED EXCEPT SURRENDER. HE THOUGHT PHNOM PENH WOULD FOLD WITHIN A FEW DAYS. KRIANGSAK REMAINED UNCONVINCED BY THIS, AND CHATCHAI SUBSIDED INTO SILENCE. BEFORE DOING SO, HOWEVER, CHATCHAI COMMITTED AN INTERESTING (POSSIBLY FREUDIAN) SLIP, SAYING "WE DID WHAT WE COULD FOR SIHANOUK. I MEAN, WE DID WHAT WE COULD FOR LON NOL".

4. WHILE IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO OVERINTERPRET SIGNIFICANCE OF FOREGOING DISCUSSIONS, IMPRESSION WAS GARNERED THAT A) CHATCHAI HAS BEEN FIRMLY TOLD TO LOWER PROFILE IN CAMBODIAN NEGOTIATIONS, AND B) CHATCHAI IS NO LONGER READY TO WEAR HIS HEART ON HIS SLEEVE FOR SIHANOUK. THIS COULD MEAN SUPREME COMMAND (AND KRIANGSAK PERSONALLY) HAS GAINED THE UPPER HAND IN THE STRUGGLE OVER THAI TACTICS TOWARD CAMBODIA.  
MASTERS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECDEF.

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NNN

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